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## NCI Program Spins Start-Up Company

Under the CITR's Nuclear Cities Initiative (NCI), a civilian enterprise to market equipment and provide support services for bar coding and other automated identification technologies is being established in Snezhinsk, Russia. The company, Identification Technologies Company (ITEC), is a registered limited liability company set up in April 2000 between Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc., [at that time, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Oak Ridge contractor for the NCI program] and the city of Snezhinsk. ITEC provides auto-identification technologies, such as bar coding, for both civilian and government customers in the Russian Federation.

Snezhinsk is an administrative and territorial community with a population of approximately 75,000 and is located about 100 km south of Yekaterinburg in the Chelyabinsk region of central Russia. The "closed city" was established in 1955 when the location was chosen for the Russian Federal Nuclear Center-All Russian Institute of Technical Physics (RFNC-VNIITF), one of two engineering institutes within the Ministry of Atomic Energy (Minatom) that developed nuclear weapons in Russia.

One important result of this new venture is that ITEC provides non-nuclear employment of personnel from VNIITF. After one year in operation, ITEC currently employs 4 people full time and 10 people part time. During the second year, ITEC expects to employ 10 people full time and about 20 people part time. The city of Snezhinsk expects to facilitate a transition of citizens from dependence on government-oriented employment

*ITEC demonstration of steel products and metal tags marked by equipment from the InfoSight Corporation.*



*Signing the first contract...*

*(L-R) ITEC General Director, Gennady Tsygankov; Mayor of Snezhinsk, Anatoli Oplanchook; Chairperson for the Committee for Estate Administration of Snezhinsk, Ludmila Vozovikova; NCI Project Manager from Oak Ridge, Bradley Weil; and ITEC Technical Director, Nikolai Sakharov.*

to a civilian commercial and industrial job base. DOE hopes the highly trained VNIITF engineers and scientists will remain in Snezhinsk and diversify and develop self-supporting activities, which is the main goal of the NCI program.

The VNIITF personnel have used bar code technology, recognize the commercial advantages, and also recognize the need for Russified bar code equipment, software, and documentation. Target customers are Ural-Siberian nuclear and non-nuclear industrial and trade facilities.

During visits to the United States in May 2000, ITEC personnel met with representatives of U.S. companies interested in developing sound business relationships with ITEC for mutual benefit and prosperity. Currently, InfoSight

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Corporation, Telesis, Recognition Systems, Hirsh Electronics, and the Intermec Corporation have negotiated formal distributor or representative agreements with ITEC. The new company is planning the Russian conversion of bar code equipment and will receive training for technical support and product sales from the U.S. manufacturers. ITEC is now selling and supporting Intermec bar code equipment to projects associated with DOE's

Material Protection, Control, and Accounting (MPC&A) program and has acquired appropriate Russian licensing that will allow ITEC to offer expert services for the design and installation of MPC&A systems and equipment at Russian nuclear facilities. Project teams for the Krasnoyarsk Electrochemical Plant in Zelenogorsk and the Urals Electrochemical Integrated Plant in Novouralsk have already contracted with ITEC.

***For more information about this new business venture, contact Bradley Weil (865/574-7147), and for information about the NCI program, contact Donna Burrell (865/241-5362).***



*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

*Russian Nuclear Security (Priorities and Alternatives)*

*Willard Inter-Continental Hotel, Washington, D.C.*

*Sponsor: Institute of Nuclear Materials Management*

*Contact: INMM by phone 847/480-9573, fax 847/480-9282, e-mail [inmm@inmm.org](mailto:inmm@inmm.org), or web site <http://www.inmm.org>*



*July 15–19, 2001*

*42nd INMM Annual Meeting*

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## Director's Note

This issue's feature article is a wonderful example of a true success of the Nuclear Cities Initiative (NCI): the start-up of what promises to be a very successful business by former employees of one of Russia's nuclear weapons design facilities. Recently, I attended the 2001 Sam Nunn/Bank of America Policy Forum, "Russian Scientific Talents: Economic Opportunities and Challenges," and I had the pleasure of hearing Congresswoman Tauscher (D-CA) speak about the necessity of public outreach in the nonproliferation arena. We often gather to discuss the importance of our work, but as Congresswoman Tauscher said, we are "preaching to the choir." It is in our best interest and, perhaps more importantly, our duty to enlighten the general public about the necessity of the work we are fervently pursuing. As Congress and the new administration contemplate the budget, they need to hear from their constituency. We hope the end result will enable us to continue to have successes like the NCI start-up company.

*– Larry Satkowiak*



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